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The Federal Diary

Idea of Scuttling Direct Pay System Goes Into Discard

By Jerry Kluttz



A PLAN to have the Government stop direct salary payments to its employees in the form of cash and checks has been abandoned as "impractical."

A study of the proposal was ordered earlier this year by the House Appropriations Committee after one of its members had the idea that considerable savings could be made if the Government transferred lump sums to commercial banks which in turn would make salary payments to the 2.4 million employees.

The study group conceded that the proposal might save some time and money for Uncle Sam but it doubted whether it would be worth the inconvenience to his employees.

Besides, the cost of writing checks has declined steadily as Treasury's Disbursements Division has become more efficient. The agency has installed costly new electronic equipment to speed up check-writing. It will write an estimated 265 million checks this year, or more than a million on each working day.

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